

it was changed to "Governor-General."⁵⁵ Likewise with "Commissioner," it was felt that it did not quite carry the proper ring of authority, so before it the word "High"³⁷ was inserted. The title "High Commissioner" was invented for practical reasons, and as understood in official circles is a high ranking official, frequently with the rank of Ambassador. It gives a right, sonorous sound as you intone: "His Excellency, the United States High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands."

As this is written all that we have to go on in an effort to describe the office of the United States High Commissioner is a law providing for a United States High Commissioner to the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, and an appointment to fill that position. Only experience will show how the scheme will work. It is fair to assume that the High Commissioner will act in entire good faith and in such a manner as not to give the impression of meddling in the internal administration of the Islands. If the official is wise he will not forget for a single moment that he is not the Governor-General possessing the powers which the Governor-General formerly exercised, and that he is not the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, but simply a Commissioner to the Commonwealth Government. Tact and diplomacy, coupled with the retention of Filipino good will, can well be made the basic planks of American policy. For while the President of the United States, acting through the High Commissioner, retains drastic authority, to make use of it unadvisedly would only furnish

ammunition
for anti-imperialistic outcries.

In providing for a United States High Commissioner, the Congress was confronted with a delicate problem. The Filipinos objected to any excessive lodgment of power with the United States High Commissioner which would be destructive of Filipino autonomy. On the other hand, American sovereignty was to continue, and with American sovereignty went responsibility to safeguard that sovereignty. The balance